

**October 17, 2013  
For Immediate Release**

**Contact:  
MassDOT Press Office  
Phone: (857) DOT-8500  
Emily Fitzmaurice, OHED  
Phone: (617) 872-6813**

**PATRICK ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCES 17 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS  
TO SOUTH COAST COMMUNITIES**

*Grants to help communities implement smart growth plans to make way  
for South Coast Rail*

NORTON – Thursday, October 17, 2013 – Yesterday, the Patrick Administration announced 17 technical assistance grants will be awarded to communities to implement smart growth principles of the *South Coast Rail Economic Development and Land Use Corridor Plan*. This is the sixth round of grants available to 31 communities who will be impacted by South Coast Rail. The announcement was made at a meeting of the Commuter Rail Task Force in Norton.

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) and the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development (EOHED) reviewed the applications and awarded communities technical assistance for projects to address and support new zoning, housing needs and production plans, corridor studies, economic development, land use strategy and permitting. Jean Fox, South Coast Rail Project Manager, was on hand to describe the review process and the list of grants.

“MassDOT is pleased to provide this sixth year of technical assistance funding to the communities in the South Coast Rail corridor,” said Transportation Secretary Richard Davey. “By taking advantage of this support, cities and towns in the region are positioning themselves to welcome economic development that aligns with their goals, preserves natural resources, and ensures sustainability.”

MassDOT and EOHED work closely to ensure that the grants comply with the Corridor Plan and the goals communities have developed for Priority Preservation Areas and Priority Development Areas.

“By making smart, targeted investments in the South Coast area, we are working to spur regional development well into the future and help these communities plan ahead for growth,” said Housing and Economic Development Secretary Greg Bialecki.

This sixth round of grants totals almost \$245,000. Applicant communities worked with their Regional Planning Agencies (RPAs) to develop their proposals and will meet with the RPAs to implement their plans. The Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District will work with 14 communities; the Old Colony Planning Council with two; and the Metropolitan Area Planning Council with two. Fox recognized the assistance RPAs have provided their communities and the Commonwealth over the last six years in developing and implementing dozens of successful projects.

*The South Coast Rail Economic Development and Land Use Corridor Plan*, developed in 2009, has made strategic investments to assist the 31 corridor communities in preparing for passenger rail through sustainable development and appropriate land use. The Plan identifies areas that are appropriate for new development near proposed South Coast Rail transit stations. The fifth round of technical assistance announced in October 2012 provided grants to 15 Corridor communities of \$5,000 - \$25,000 to plan for sustainable, smart growth.

Over the past five years, communities have used the grants to achieve smart growth principles as outlined in the Corridor Plan. These efforts include transit-oriented development, riverwalk and streetscape planning, mixed-use bylaws in town centers, bicycle and pedestrian connectivity to new station locations and several more. The technical assistance grants are part of a broader strategy to target state investments in the region to advance the housing, economic development and preservation goals outlined in the Corridor Plan. Technical assistance grants to communities in the region have totaled more than \$1 million over the first five years of the program.

In September, Governor Patrick announced that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers had released the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the South Coast Rail project, and MassDOT has adopted the Corps' document as the state-required Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR). MassDOT has identified the Stoughton rail alternative as its preferred route for providing the best transportation, environmental and smart growth benefits.

The Patrick Administration has continuously supported the transportation infrastructure on the South Coast including the Accelerated Bridge Program "mega" project to rebuild the I-195, Route 79 and Route 138 interchange in Fall River along with improvements to Route 18 and other state roadways, and local road and bridge projects funded by Chapter 90. The Patrick Administration has made 245 investments totaling \$939 million in the region, including \$11.7 million in 2011 and 2012 MassWorks infrastructure program grants to five communities in the region, among them a grant of \$3.25 million to New Bedford for improvements in the city's Acushnet Avenue International Marketplace area.

For more on the Corridor Plan or South Coast Rail, visit [www.southcoastrail.com](http://www.southcoastrail.com).

A list of the communities and awards is attached.

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